

REMARKS, STATE EMERGENCY RESOURCES
PLANNING COMMITTEE

BALTIMORE

July 16, 1964

General Van Brunt, Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Carmody, ladies and gentlemen:

First I would like to express my personal thanks to each member of the committee for having accepted the duty of preparing plans and procedures for managing resources and reconstituting the economy of Maryland in event of nuclear attack. When General Van Brunt and I first discussed the general characteristics that we should look for in the people we would ask to serve on this committee, we agreed that they should be first and foremost be busy people. It was our thought that anyone who is to be in a position to exercise knowledgeable and effective control of a resource in an emergency should be in the mainstream of that business. Therefore, we have deliberately sought busy and successful men and women. The fact that you have responded to our call demonstrates your awareness that in a free enterprise economy a position of business influence is also a position of civic responsibility. I am most gratified with the high caliber of personnel that we have recruited throughout our task forces. It is a tribute to the leadership of you gentlemen who chair these task forces that you have been able to attract such capable people.

It is readily apparent that resources are not evenly distributed throughout this land and that each State has its own inventory of products that are surplus or in short supply. It is a basic principle of our economy that resources are viewed as a national asset and that there are no normal restrictions upon interstate trade. This is the reason that in two great wars of this century the federal government had set up the machinery for the management of resources and the states were not called upon to exercise any role in this field. In both of these wars we were fortunately spared significant attack upon our homeland. However, it is now within the capability of a prospective enemy to wreak serious damage upon this country. It therefore is prudent that we establish within each state the capability of initiating measures for recovery that are consistent with a national plan in case the federal government should be unable to act in the early stages. This is the purpose for which we are called together this afternoon.

The very fact that resources must be controlled within a national